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JONATHAN HATCH 1626 - 1710

House of Entertainment, Sacconnessett, Mass.

Jonathan Hatch, the only son of Thomas Hatch, was born in England about 1626/28. Before May 14, 1634, the family was residing at Dorchester, Mass. and Jonathan was six or eight years of age. He died in Falmouth December 1710. He married Sarah Rowley, daughter of Henry Rowley of Barnstable on 11 April 1646.

On 7 August 1638 permission was granted to Mr. Stephen Hopkins of Plymouth to erect a house at Yarmouth and to cut hay there that year to winter his cattle.¹ This little band of a dozen first families depended on each other to lend a helping hand in all the work of the seasons and Jonathan undoubtedly did his part. Like many another boy, he felt himself no longer a child and became impatient to make his way in the world. He appears to have run away, and in so doing, came to grief. The Plymouth colony towns dealt with "tramps" according to the custom of old English parishes and ordered that the "Marshall or Constable of the Towne where unto they come, shall apprehend him or them and upon examination soe appeering, hee shall whip them, or cause them to be whipt with rods so as it exceed not fifteen stripes, and to give him or them a passe to depart the Gouvernment."²

The Massachusetts Bay Colony Records chronicle no sins of commissions against Jonathan Hatch up to this time, but as there was no Juvenile Court to aid him, for the sin of being away from home and not hastening to some employment, he paid the penalty. "Quarter Court held at Boston, First of 7th Mo. 1640 - 1640 1 Sept. Jonathan Hatch was censured to be severely whiped & for the p'sent is comited for a slave to Lieft. Davenport."³ Evidently he did not remain long with Lieft. Davenport at Salem, for three months later, 1 December 1640, "Mr. Nicholas Sympkins is enjoined to bring Jonathan Hatch to the next Court to receive punishment for slander-ing him." Jonathan had the courage of his convictions, and the

Court vindicated him, while Captain Sympkins suffered the penalty of 40 shillings fine.

Jonathan's restless spirit prompted him to seek for better things and it again brought him before the Court, again to be censured, to be whipped and sent from Constable to Constable. "5 April 1642, Jonathan Hatch, by consent of the Court was appointed to dwell with Mr. Stephen Hopkins & the said Mr. Hopkins to have a speciall care of him." This placed him in the way of larger opportunities and there is little doubt that he made the most of them in the little more than two years which intervened before the death of Stephen Hopkins, which occurred between June 6th and July 17th, 1644.

There was little need for an inn at Plymouth during the first decade of its existence, but Stephen Hopkins evidently kept "open house", which later became a house of public entertainment. While in the Hopkins home, spiritual training was not wanting and the courage and manliness of the boy Jonathan must have awakened a spirit of admiration which challenged the Pilgrim Magistrate to take him under his "speciall care".

After the death of Stephen Hopkins, Jonathan returned to Barnstable, probably to the home of his parents. On 11 April 1646 he married Sarah Rowley, daughter of Henry Rowley of Barnstable. Perhaps no better assurance of the good standing of Jonathan Hatch in the community can be vouchsafed than the consent of Mr. Rowley to give him the hand of his daughter in marriage.

In 1653/4 Jonathan was on the Jury appointed to lay out the road from Sandwich to Plymouth. Sometime during the year 1657 he took the oath of fidelity. After ownership of a farm at South Sea he sold the property and upon his father's death moved his family to Falmouth.

In 1685 there is record that Jonathan Hatch of Sacconnessett was granted a license to keep a house of entertainment, the said Hatch to keep a victualling houss, retailing liquor for the entertainment of strangers, passengers or others as occasion may require.⁴ This was probably the first license that the Court

had granted him and signifies that he had earned the respect of the leaders in the town.

Jonathan Hatch died at Falmouth in December 1710, said to be about 84 years of age.⁵ He had served well in his generation and died possessed of an ample estate. He established his sons comfortably and lived to see them enjoying a goodly degree of prominence in military and civil affairs.

-by Ruth Hilton Cleland 76-08

REFERENCES

Thomas Hatch of Barnstable and Some of His Descendants
by Charles Lathrop Pack

- 1 Records of Plymouth Colony I:93
- 2 Plymouth Colony Records, Laws, p. 206
- 3 Massachusetts Bay Colony Records I:300
- 4 Freeman's History of Cape Cod I:311
- 5 Barnstable Families Part I:467